

REMARKS

Applicant has studied the Office Action dated September 20, 2005 and has made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 are pending. Claims 4 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 15-17 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0056576). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 18 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, and to make further amendments. Applicant respectfully submits that the Park reference does not teach or suggest a routing device that manages data flow to at least two decoding modules that are connected in a chain, with the routing device including a network that includes connection means for allowing a direction in which the digital data is routed through the chain to be selected, as is recited in amended claims 1 and 7. Thus, amended claims 1 and 7 distinguish over the Park reference. Further, claims 2, 3, 5, and 6, and claims 8-14 depend from amended claims 1 and 7, respectfully, and thus also distinguish over the Park reference. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-14 are allowable over the Park reference.

Similarly, claim 15 has been amended to include limitations similar to the limitations of claim 18. Applicant respectfully submits that the Park reference does not teach or suggest a routing method in which at least two decoding modules that are connected in a chain are managed, and a direction in which the digital data is routed through the chain is selected, as is recited in amended claim 15. Thus, amended claim 15 distinguishes over the Park reference.

Further, claims 16, 17, and 19-24 depend from amended claim 15, and thus also distinguish over the Park reference. Thus, claims 15-17 and 19-24 are allowable over the Park reference.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

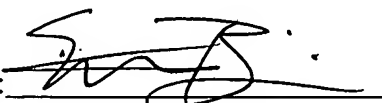
Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claims 4 and 18 have been incorporated into the independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant has examined the references cited by the Examiner as pertinent but not relied upon. It is believed that these references neither disclose nor make obvious the invention recited in the present claims. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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